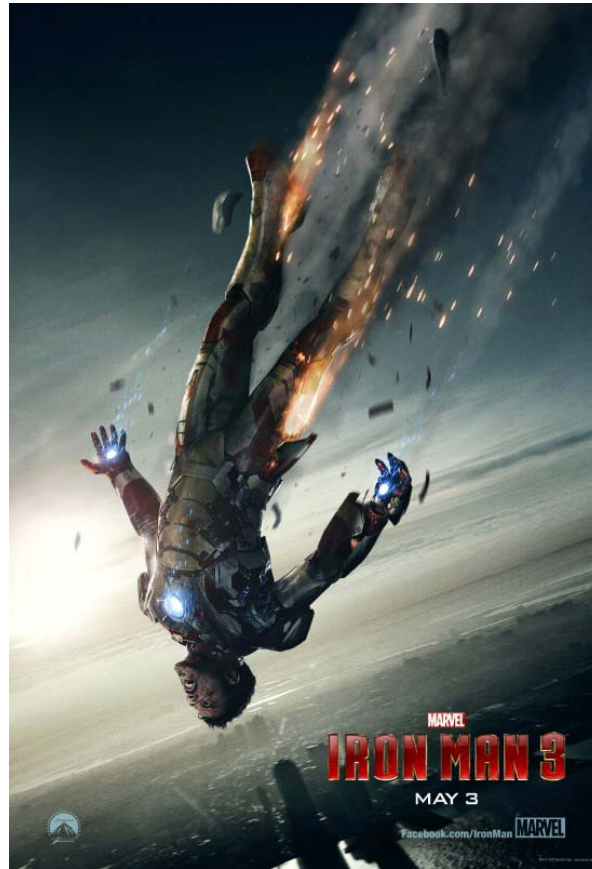


## IRON MAN 3

By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



*Iron Man 3* is an in-your-face, fast-paced, high-action, explosion-overloaded, grandiose installment of the charismatic Marvel comic series. What else would you expect from Tony Stark? *Iron Man* is nothing if not about one man's super-ego! Sequels will always try to outdo the previous chapter and this movie is no exception. What I liked was the interaction between Robert Downey, Jr. and the little boy who helps him out. I liked that they gave Gwyneth Paltrow a bigger part and some of her own kick-butt abilities which she needs if she is going to be Iron Man's main squeeze. I liked Guy Pearce as the bad guy. Nerds gone wild are always a lot of fun to watch. Over-the-top doesn't even begin to describe it.

There is a lot of advanced technology in this *Iron Man*. The suits are spectacular in their own right, but they are not the stars of the story, even though they take up a lot of time and are pretty cool. It is the human part of Iron Man that has the greatest appeal. How Tony Stark as a man evolves and grows, as he begins to develop relationships in the world he owns and in the world he can't control, is what keeps fans coming back for more. The remote-controlled, Transformer-like metal armor, when removed, are inanimate, lifeless and pretty dull. It is the spirit and the heart of Tony Stark that puts the iron inside the suit. Rip that out and

what do you have left? You guessed it, a lot of unanswered questions that just beg for another sequel. Not that there's anything wrong with that, it's just that I'd like to see more of the man and less of the iron next time.

I am a fan, I'll admit it. I will go because I like the premise, the fantasy, the CGI, and the special effects. I will go because I like comics that are made into live films (depending on who makes them and who stars in them). I will go because I have a true fan's commitment to Robert Downey, Jr. And I will go because, like so many of us out there, I like to just get out and have some fun at the movies. No further explanation needed.

